

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, comprising:

a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit provided in said network,

means for registering a predetermined communication terminal so as to correspond to said issued common phone number by sending an identification name of the predetermined communication terminals of said plurality of communication terminals to said phone number management unit in correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

means for sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals via the message management unit when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit and notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

means for leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

means for reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in said message management unit, and the message left on said bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on the bulletin board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals.

Claim 2 (original): The communication system according to claim 1, wherein each of said communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

Claim 3 (original): The communication system according to claim 1, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A communication system in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, comprising:

a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit provided in said network;

means for registering, after being accessed by an arbitrary one of said plurality of communication terminals using said issued common phone number and receiving a confirmation by said management terminal, the arbitrary one of said communication terminals in correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

means for sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals via the message management unit when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

means for leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminals to said common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

means for reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in said message management unit, and the message left on said bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on said bulletin board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals.

Claim 5 (original): The communication system according to claim 4, wherein each of said communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

Claim 6 (original): The communication system according to claim 4, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A communication method in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, wherein:

said network is provided with a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit, and said method comprising the steps of:

registering a predetermined communication terminal so as to correspond to said issued common phone number by sending an identification name of the predetermined communication terminal of said plurality of communication terminals to said phone number management unit in correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals via the message management unit when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management

unit and notifying the other registered communication terminals of arrival of the message file when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to the common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit or the message left on said bulletin board unit from an arbitrary one of the registered communication terminals.

Claim 8 (original): The communication method according to claim 7, wherein each of said communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

Claim 9 (original): The communication method according to claim 7, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A communication method in which a plurality of communication terminals, which are connected to a network including a Public Switched Network in a category thereof, mutually communicate through communication data addressed to a common phone number issued by a communication terminal being a management terminal, wherein:

said network is provided with a phone number management unit, a message management unit and a bulletin board unit, and

said method comprising the steps of:

registering, after being accessed by an arbitrary one of said plurality of communication terminals using said issued common phone number and receiving a confirmation by said management terminal, the arbitrary one of said communication terminals in correspondence with said common phone number issued from said management terminal;

sending a message file sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number to other registered communication terminals via the message management unit when a first mode in which the message file is to be directly sent to the other communication terminals is selected, and leaving the message file in said message management unit when a second mode in which any registered communication terminal accesses to said message management unit to receive the message file is selected;

leaving a message sent by accessing from a registered communication terminal to said common phone number on said bulletin board unit; and

reading at any time the message file left in said message management unit, in a case where the message file is left in said message management unit and the message left on said bulletin board unit, in a case where the message is left on said bulletin board unit, from an arbitrary one of the other registered communication terminals.

Claim 11 (original): The communication method according to claim 10, wherein each of said communication terminals has an identification name which is any one of a telephone number, an E-mail address and an identification number assigned to each of said communication terminal and an identification number assigned to a medium in a case where the communication terminal is capable of using the medium.

Claim 12 (original): The communication method according to claim 10, wherein said message file and said message contain one or more information mode selected from voice information, character information and image information, respectively.